

What is claimed is:

1. A method for displaying elements from a user's digital history store on a timeline, comprising:
  - selecting a time period of interest on the timeline; and
  - 5 displaying from the user's digital history store on the timeline associated with events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest, wherein each event, person, place and thing has a unique icon associated therewith.
2. A method according to claim 1, further including:
  - displaying in a navigation region a root navigation region displaying icons for events, people, places and things; and
  - in response to selecting one of the events, people, places and things icons in the root navigation region, displaying a cluster of one of events, people, places and things corresponding to the selection and relating to the time period of interest.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said displaying includes placing emphasis on elements of the cluster based upon at least one of (1) recency of activity associated therewith, (2) frequency of activity associated therewith and (3) user preferences.
- 20 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said placing emphasis includes at least one of changing the size of the icon, changing a contrast associated with the icon and positioning the icon according to a direction of emphasis.
5. A method according to claim 2, further including:
  - 25 in response to selecting one of the elements of the cluster, displaying a sub-cluster of elements of which the cluster is comprised, wherein the sub-cluster of elements relate to the time period of interest.
6. A method according to claim 2, wherein selecting in the navigating region includes

displaying in a path display portion a currently navigated path by the user from root region to individual elements, including intervening selected clusters.

7. A method according to claim 2, further including:

dragging an element from the navigation region to a filter region; and

in response to the dragging, filtering the elements displayed in the timeline according to the dragged element.

8. A method according to claim 2, further including:

inputting text to a query input portion; and

in response to the inputting, filtering the elements displayed in the timeline according to the elements mapped to the text.

9. A method according to claim 1, further including:

inputting user preference information for pre-specified aspects of said displaying.

10. A method according to claim 1, further including:

in response to a user selection, displaying additional information about the displayed icons.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the time period of interest is selected from one of a range of at least one hour, a range of at least one day, a range of at least one week, a range of at least one month and a range of at least one year.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting a time period of interest includes scoping to a time period of interest with a scoping mechanism.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the scoping mechanism is a scroll bar.

14. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

15. A modulated data signal carrying computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

16. A computing device comprising means for performing the method of claim 1.

17. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of computer-executable modules for displaying elements from a user's digital history store on a timeline, the computer executable modules comprising:

a selecting mechanism for selecting a time period of interest on the timeline; and

a display mechanism that displays events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest from the user's digital history store on the timeline.

18. A computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein said display mechanism further displays in a navigation region a root navigation region displaying icons for events, people, places and things; and

in response to selecting one of the events, people, places and things icons in the root navigation region, said display mechanism displays a cluster of one of events, people, places and things corresponding to the selection and relating to the time period of interest.

19. A computer readable medium according to claim 18, wherein said display mechanism places emphasis on elements of the cluster based upon at least one of (1) recency of activity associated therewith, (2) frequency of activity associated therewith and (3) user preferences.

20. A computer readable medium according to claim 19, wherein said display mechanism at least one of changes the size of the icon, changes a contrast associated with the icon and positions the icon according to a direction of emphasis.

21. A computer readable medium according to claim 18, further including:  
in response to selecting one of the elements of the cluster, said display mechanism  
displays a sub-cluster of elements of which the cluster is comprised, wherein the sub-cluster of  
5 elements relate to the time period of interest.

22. A computer readable medium according to claim 18, wherein in response to selecting in  
the navigating region, said display mechanism displays in a path display portion a currently  
navigated path from root region to individual elements, including intervening selected clusters.

23. A computer readable medium according to claim 18, further including:  
a filter mechanism, whereby in response to dragging an element from the navigation  
region to a filter region, the display mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline  
according to the dragged element.

24. A computer readable medium according to claim 18, further including:  
a filter mechanism, whereby in response to text input to a query input portion, the display  
mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline based on the input text.

25. A computer readable medium according to claim 17, further including:  
a user preference input mechanism for receiving user preference information for  
specifying aspects of said displaying by the display mechanism.

26. A computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein in response to a user  
25 selection, said display mechanism displays additional information about the displayed icons.

27. A computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the time period of interest  
is selected from one of a range of at least one hour, a range of at least one day, a range of at least  
one week, a range of at least one month and a range of at least one year.

28. A computer readable medium according to claim 17, wherein said selecting mechanism includes a scoping mechanism for scoping to a time period of interest.

5 29. A computer readable medium according to claim 28, wherein the scoping mechanism is a scroll bar.

30. A modulated data signal carrying computer executable instructions output as a result of the execution of the plurality of computer-executable instructions of the computer readable medium of claim 17.

31. A computing device comprising means for carrying out the plurality of computer-executable instructions of the computer readable medium of claim 17.

32. A computing device for having a display for displaying elements from a user's digital history store on a timeline, comprising:  
a selecting mechanism for selecting a time period of interest on the timeline; and  
a display mechanism that displays events, people, places and things relating to the time period of interest from the user's digital history store on the timeline.

33. A computer readable medium according to claim 32, wherein said display mechanism further displays in a navigation region a root navigation region displaying icons for events, people, places and things; and

in response to selecting one of the events, people, places and things icons in the root navigation region, said display mechanism displays a cluster of one of events, people, places and things corresponding to the selection and relating to the time period of interest.

34. A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein said display mechanism places emphasis on elements of the cluster based upon at least one of (1) recency of activity

associated therewith, (2) frequency of activity associated therewith and (3) user preferences.

35. A computer readable medium according to claim 34, wherein said display mechanism at least one of changes the size of the icon, changes a contrast associated with the icon and positions the icon according to a direction of emphasis.

36. A computer readable medium according to claim 33, further including:  
in response to selecting one of the elements of the cluster, said display mechanism displays a sub-cluster of elements of which the cluster is comprised, wherein the sub-cluster of elements relate to the time period of interest.

37. A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein in response to selecting in the navigating region, said display mechanism displays in a path display portion a currently navigated path from root region to individual elements, including intervening selected clusters.

38. A computer readable medium according to claim 33, further including:  
a filter mechanism, whereby in response to dragging an element from the navigation region to a filter region, the display mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline according to the dragged element.

39. A computer readable medium according to claim 33, further including:  
a filter mechanism, whereby in response to text input to a query input portion, the display mechanism filters the elements displayed in the timeline based on the input text.

40. A computer readable medium according to claim 32, further including:  
a user preference input mechanism for receiving user preference information for specifying aspects of said displaying by the display mechanism.

41. A computer readable medium according to claim 32, wherein in response to a user

selection, said display mechanism displays additional information about the displayed icons.

42. A computer readable medium according to claim 32, wherein the time period of interest is selected from one of a range of at least one hour, a range of at least one day, a range of at least one week, a range of at least one month and a range of at least one year.

43. A computer readable medium according to claim 32, wherein said selecting mechanism includes a scoping mechanism for scoping to a time period of interest.

44. A computer readable medium according to claim 43, wherein the scoping mechanism is a scroll bar.

TO BE FORWARDED TO THE PATENT OFFICE